

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 FDRE-00 OPR-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASDDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2699

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TAGS: AEMG

SUBJ: E & E - PHILIPPINE NOTE ON GUIDELINES FOR EVACUEES AT BASES
IN PHILIPPINES

REF: MANILA 5098

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOTE APRIL 28 OUTLINING
UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING OF REFUGEES THROUGH U.S.
BASES AND REQUESTING A FORMALIZATION OF US/RP UNDERSTANDINGS
ON THIS SUBJECT. FULL TEXT OF NOTE AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS
COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE DEPARTMENT'S NOTE VERBALE
DATED APRIL 21, 1975 CONCERNING THE GUIDELINES FOR THE
EVACUATION OF CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE NATIONALS PASSING
THROUGH THE UNITED STATES BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES.

QUOTE IN THIS CONNECTION, THE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO INFORM
THE EMBASSY THAT PERMISSION WAS GRANTED BY THE PHILIPPINE
GOVERNMENT FOR THE SAID EVACUEES TO PASS THROUGH THE BASES
WITHOUT THE USUAL FORMALITIES FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME ON
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THEIR WAY TO THEIR FINAL DESTINATION IN VIEW OF THE EMERGENCY

SITUATION IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM, AND BECAUSE OF THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECT OF THE CASE. HOWEVER, THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO FORMALIZE ITS REQUEST ON THE MATTER.

QUOTE IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT THAT THE EVACUEES WOULD NOT INCLUDE MILITARY PERSONNEL AND POLITICAL REFUGEES AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PREFERENCE ARE WOMEN AND CHILDREN EVACUEES. IT IS ALSO THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THE EVACUEES AND THEIR EVACUATION TO ANOTHER PORT OUTSIDE THE PHILIPPINES, THAT THEY WILL NOT STAY IN THE PHILIPPINES BEYOND THREE DAYS, THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BASES, AND THAT TO AVOID THE STAY AT THE BASES OF LARGE NUMBERS OF EVACUEES, THE UNITED STATES WILL TAKE ALL MEASURES TO FLY THEM DIRECTLY TO GUAM OR TO ANOTHER DESTINATION.

QUOTE THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. MANILA, 26 APRIL 1975 UNQUOTE

2. COMMENT: NEW NOTE REPRESENTS BOTH AN INCREASING AWARENESS AND CONCERN OF GOP ABOUT THE BUILDUP OF REFUGEE POPULATIONS AT CLARK AND SUBIC, BUT IT ALSO REFLECTS A SOFTENING OF THE EARLIER VERY RESTRICTIVE LINE RESPECTING NUMBERS AND TRANSIT TIMES SPECIFIED IN THEIR PREVIOUS NOTE. THIS HELPFUL TREND OF GOP ATTITUDE COULD WELL FALTER AND REVERSE, HOWEVER, IF WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCOMPLISH EARLY DRAWDOWN OF NUMBERS NOW CONTINUING TO BUILD AT BOTH CLARK AND SUBIC.

3. IN MEANTIME, WE PROPOSE ANSWER DFA NOTE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES (FORMAL OPENING AND CLOSE OMITTED). BEGIN TEXT:

QUOTE THE EMBASSY WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND FOREBEARANCE SHOWN BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES DURING THIS VERY DIFFICULT TIME, AND FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE HUMANITARIAN EFFORT BEING MADE TO ASSIST EVACUEES FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA.

QUOTE IT IS THE EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING AS WELL AS THAT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT PRESENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MOVEMENT OF SUCH EVACUEES THROUGH U.S. BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE CONFINED TO THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE PERIOD OF TIME.

QUOTE THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE ASSURED, MOREOVER, THAT THE EMBASSY AND ALL AGENCIES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONCERNED WITH THIS MATTER ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS TO TRANSPORT ALL SUCH EVACUEES BEYOND THE PHILIPPINES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

QUOTE IN SUPPORT OF THESE EFFORTS, THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO CONTINUE ITS MOST HELPFUL ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY RESPECTING THE CLEARANCE OF VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT FOR ENTRY INTO AND TRANSIT OF DESIGNATED POINTS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

QUOTE THE EMBASSY HAS TAKEN NOTE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S DESIRE TO UNDERTAKE PERIODIC INSPECTION OF FACILITIES NOW BEING USED BY REFUGEES AND HAS ASKED THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS AT CLARK AND SUBIC TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE. END QUOTE

4. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: AS NOTED ABOVE, WE BELIEVE FILIPINO POSTURE HAS SOFTENED CONSIDERABLY AND THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO BEAR WITH US, IF WE SHOW THAT WE ARE MAKING GENUINE AND DILIGENT EFFORTS TO MOVE REFUGEES OUT OF PHILIPPINES. WHILE OUR REPLY IS SOFTLY STATED, WE EXPECT FILIPINOS TO TAKE IT AS A PRACTICALLY IRONCLAD ASSURANCE THAT WE ARE AWARE OF THEIR CONCERNS AND THAT WE WILL GET ON WITH THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS POSSIBLE DRAWDOWN OF NUMBERS NOW IN PHILIPPINES. WE REQUEST IMMEDIATE DEPARTMENT CLEARANCE OF OUR PROPOSED TEXT ON THIS UNDERSTANDING.
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